FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

28 JANUARY 1985

Iran-Iraq War

Iraq's 3d Army Corps launched a surprise offensive in the southern sector on the night of 27-28 January, capturing defined targets on three fronts and inflicting heavy losses on the Iranians, an Iraqi military spokesman announced in a statement reported by INA. The Iraqi land attack followed a 27 January Iraqi air raid on shipping in the Gulf in which two "maritime targets" were hit south of Khark Island, according to a military spokesman's statement broadcast by Baghdad radio. Meanwhile, shipping sources cited by the *GULF DAILY NEWS* disclosed that a missile fired by an Iranian jet struck a Greek tanker 40 miles from Ra's Tanura the same day. The paper said the missile hit one of the ship's ballast tanks but failed to explode.

In a separate development Iraq accused Iran of shelling "civilian targets" in the Basra Governorate on 26 January, according to a military communique cited by Voice of the Masses radio. The head of Iran's War Information Headquarters, in an IRNA interview, denied Iraq's charges as "completely baseless."

Lebanon

The Cabinet will discuss the economic situation in an extraordinary session on 28 January following Education and Labor Minister Salim al-Huss' decision to withdraw his resignation, Voice of Lebanon radio announced. Prime Minister Rashid Karami had announced the postponement of the Cabinet session the previous day because of Al-Huss' threatened resignation, according to Beirut radio, and Minister Nabih Birri had warned that he would reconsider his own position in the Cabinet if Al-Huss resigned. Birri noted that Al-Huss was "frustrated and disgusted" with the present situation, especially the economic deterioration.

In another development, Voice of Lebanon radio reported that Prime Minister Karami will visit Damascus on 29 January. Earlier, the radio broadcast Karami's statement that the Al-Naqurah talks with Israel will remain suspended until Lebanon receives the answers it requires. In Israel, Prime Minister Shim'on Peres confirmed the breakdown in the Al-Naqurah talks, telling his Cabinet on 27 January that the military negotiations with Lebanon have "apparently" ended completely because of the latter's "impossible" demands, Jerusalem radio reported. As for UNIFIL, the radio disclosed that UN Under Secretary Brian Urquhart has instructed UNIFIL to prepare for a UN headquarters order to deploy in the areas evacuated by the IDF. Nevertheless, Syria continues to oppose UNIFIL's deployment in the Sidon area because it fears that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat would use the UN presence as a cover to reestablish a PLO infrastructure in the refugee camps there, the radio asserted.

Meanwhile, an Iranian official has visited the Al-Biqa' Valley to make arrangements for the withdrawal of all Iranian gunmen from the area to Iran, according to the Voice of Lebanon.

Tabah Talks

While Egypt and Israel are expected to present their position papers at the second session of the Tabah talks on 28 January, differences in the two countries stands were evident at the 27 January session, Jerusalem radio noted. Citing Israeli sources, the radio reported Israel's view that the Beersheba discussions should lead to "interim arrangements," while the final Tabah arrangement should be debated in "another forum." Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, in an interview with *AL-AHRAM quoted by MENA, reiterated that the 25 April* 1982 agreement must be implemented without compromises or concessions and that the Tabah issue should be referred to "international arbitration" if the talks fail. The head of the Egyptian delegation emphasized at the first session that "any official" Israeli forces' presence in Tabah would be unacceptable, according to IDF radio.

Syria

President Hafiz al-Asad issued a "special pardon" allowing repentent Muslim Brotherhood "Vanguard Organization" members to return to Syria, according to an Interior Ministry spokesman quoted by Damascus radio. This pardon, the spokesman said, follows recent contacts with Vanguard leaders abroad who have expressed "new convictions" in light of a plot against Syria's steadfastness.

Jordan

King Husayn, in a letter to Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat broadcast by Amman television, criticized local journalists who write against tribes, families, traditions and norms.

YAR

GDR Foreign Minister Oskar Fischer, on an official 3-day visit, discussed bilateral relations and cooperation with his YAR counterpart and President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Sanaa radio reported.

Iran

Musavi in Nicaragua — Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi, at a press conference ending his 3-day visit to Managua, denied President Ronald Reagan's statement that the objective of his visit was to assist Nicaragua in "terrorist activities" and provide arms, IRNA reported.

Tripartite Talks — Iranian, Syrian and Libyan ministers discussed a coordinated campaign against "imperialism and Zionism" during talks in Tehran on 26 January, IRNA announced.

DRA-Pakistan

Afghanistan has protested to Pakistan over cross-border shelling on 19-21 January that killed 16 people in the Barikowt area and damaged two DRA helicopters, Kabul radio reported.

Pakistan

President Ziaul Haq, in an interview with newspaper editors reported by Karachi Overseas radio, confirmed that the 25 and 28 February general elections will be held under the strict guidelines he announced on 12 January. When asked about DRA violations of Pakistani territory, the president said Pakistan will continue to act with restraint and protest such violations.

Western Sahara

A Moroccan OV-10 plane was shot down on 21 January in the Dakhla area, according to a Saharan Information Ministry communique cited by Algiers radio.

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Karmal Thanks Workers for Messages of Support

LD262010 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 26 Jan 85

[Excerpt] In reply to thousands of congratulatory messages on the 20th founding anniversary of the PDPA, addressed to the party's Central Committee and to Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, by the masses of the country's workers, the PDPA Central Committee has issued the following message of appreciation:

Thousands of greetings and congratulatory messages on the 20th founding anniversary of the PDPA, sent by the masses of the country's workers including workers, peasants, intelligentsia, tradesmen, youth, women, civil and military personnel, representatives of tribes and clans and fraternal nationalities of the country, ulema and clergy, followers of various religions and religious sects, merchants and national entrepreneurs, have arrived addressed to the PDPA Central Committee. In their messages the masses expressed their best congratulations to the PDPA Central Committee and to Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, on their readiness, devotion and self-sacrifice for the realization of the party's objectives.

In sending fervent and sincere messages, the masses pledged to use all their energy and ability for defense of the homeland and revolution, intensification of struggle against the counterrevolutionaries, raising the level of production, and the cultural blossoming of the country under the leadership of the PDPA.

The PDPA Central Committee, while regarding these messages as a demonstration of consolidating party links with the people and the confidence of the masses in the PDPA, expresses profound thanks and appreciation to all senders of these messages and hopes for further victories of the working people of revolutionary Afghanistan for the construction of a new society.

[Signed] Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee.

PDPA Central Committee Politburo Session Reported

LD262303 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 26 Jan 85

[Excerpts] A regular session of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo was held in the headquarters Central Committee. It was chaired by Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council.

The Politburo session discussed and assessed a number of party, home and foreign affairs, and made decisions regarding them.

The PDPA Central Committee Secretariat reports that the session first assessed a report from the commission for preparations for the 20th anniversary of the PDPA's formation, recently celebrated in Kabul.

In a resolution, the PDPA Central Committee Politburo fully approved Karmal's meetings with friendly and fraternal parties participating in the celebrations of the 20th anniversary of the PDPA's founding and highly assessed the commission's work in preparing for those celebrations. The resolution stresses that the workers' huge participation in preparation and celebration of the 20th anniversary of the PDPA's formation as well as the resolute and extensive support of the world's revolutionary and progressive forces reflected in the flood of congratulatory messages from the international friends of our revolution, put much heavier tasks before all PDPA members to intensify revolutionary work and struggle, and to improve methods of achieving certain victory over the counterrevolution and their imperialist and reactionary supporters.

The Politburo session also heard the report of the DRA Peace, Solidarity and Friendship Organization delegation led by Dr Anahita Ratebzad, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and chairperson of the DRA Peace, Solidarity and Friendship Organization, which had gone to Cairo to attend the meeting of the AAPSO Bureau. In a resolution, the Politburo called the AAPSO Bureau's meeting another step toward consolidating solidarity and the anti-imperialist struggle of the people of Asia and Africa, and highly and positively assessed the participation and activities of the Afghan delegation in this meeting.

The Politburo session also comprehensively assessed the future growth of medical services in the DRA. Assessing the situation of medical services in the DRA, Babrak Karmal said:

Before the April revolution, as a result of the policy of the reactionary and feudal regime ruling the country, provision of medical services and the level of medical knowledge, like all other social, economic and cultural fields in the country were in a sad condition.

After the revolution, despite objective difficulties and malicious creation of obstacles by the counterrevolution and their imperialist supporters, firm steps have been taken toward popularizing medicine and making medical services free of charge.

After Babrak Karmal's comprehensive talk and all-around discussion on the subject, the Politburo made decisions in this regard that will be made available to compatriots in the future. The Politburo session also assessed a number of other internal and external, party and state topics and made decisions regarding them.

DRA Protests Pakistan Shelling of Konar Province

LD271627 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 27 Jan 85

[Text] The charge d'affaires of the Embassy of Pakistan was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at 1400 this afternoon and the following points were made to him by the official in charge of the First Political Department:

According to information from the relevant DRA authorities, residential areas of Barikowt, Konar Province, were shelled on

19, 20 and 21 January from inside Pakistani territory by various types of weapons such as recoilless guns, mortars, and machineguns. These savage and irresponsible attacks caused the martyrdom of 16 people including women and children and also caused considerable damage to the homes of the innocent inhabitants of that area. Similarly, as a result of these repeated attacks, difficulties and obstacles have been created in the transportation of essential goods needed by the inhabitants. Also, two DRA Air Force helicopters that were supplying food and medicine to Barikowt were very severly damaged.

The DRA strongly condemns and denounces this inhuman aggression and strongly protests to the Government of Pakistan because of it. The DRA reminds the Pakistani authorities that they should cease such aggressions and provocations, otherwise the DRA reserves the right to take necessary measures to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity, and in case of the continuation of these aggressions will resort to firm and similar action, the serious and dangerous consequences of which will rest with responsible Pakistani authorities.

According to another report, continuing its previous allegations and accusations against the DRA, Pakistani authorities have once again alleged that on 21 and 22 January Afghan aircraft attacked Arandu region inside Pakistan:

The relevant authorities of the DRA regard these allegations by the Pakistani authorities as baseless and completely untrue, and by completely rejecting them call on the Pakistani authorities to stop such nonsense and hostile provocative allegations against the DRA and not to aggravate tension in the [word indistinct] border which can arise from such actions.

Pakistan Condemned for Jailing Returning Afghans
LD251300 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 24 Jan 85

[Text] The BIA political commentator writes:

The militarist government of Pakistan is forcibly dragging our deceived Afghan compatriots off to General Zia's prisons. These compatriots had been forced to leave their homeland by the enemy's hostile propaganda or by the force and oppression of the counterrevolutionaries, but now, after perceiving the truth of the glorious April revolution and its humane objectives, they want to return to their beloved homeland. On 23 January, continuing this practice, the Pakistani police arrested some 300 of our compatriots who wanted to return to Nangarhar Province via Gandab and Gru regions to take advantage of the Revolutionary Council's general amnesty.

The Pakistani Government, which is notorious for its violations of the human rights of the people of Pakistan, does not spare any disrespect or torture of Afghans captured by the bloody claws of the criminal ringleaders of the Pakistani rebel bands and militarists. The treacherous government of Ziaul Haq that is imposed on the people of Pakistan has so far arrested hundreds of Afghan groups who wanted to return to their homeland and has dragged them off to prison cells. These compatriots, who beyond the borders of their country are wandering in scorching deserts under the worst conditions without food or water, are, in their continuing wandering, as a matter of fact, captives of a few homeless rebel chieftains and the military government of Pakistan, held for the purpose of trading in their names and lining their pockets with U.S. dollars.

These compatriots, having perceived the truth of the party and the revolutionary government as well as the clear facts of their society, are surrendering in groups to the government authorities and are giving assurances for every devotion and service to the homeland, party, and revolution.

Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, in one of his speeches said: We have explicitly announced that the gates of Afghanistan are open to all compatriots who have left the country through the provocations of the counterrevolutionaries, reaction, imperialism, past oppressive and exploitive forces, or for any other reason. The party and government will give them necessary assistance.

While our compatriots outside the borders of the country have positively replied to this loud, earnest, and sincere call of their government and want to return to the bosom of their motherland, the militarists of Pakistan, contrary to international norms and civil principles, prevents them from returning, imposing sentences on them.

The treacherous forces who loudly raise the hypocritical hue and cry of freedom and the return of Afghans to their homeland do not want and do not allow them to return. The enemies of Afghanistan must know that Afghans will return to their homeland, to their revolutionary and blossoming homeland and that shame and embarrassment will remain for their deceivers.

Ershad Cites Work on First Nuclear Reactor

BK270342 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 27 Jan 85

[Text] Bangladesh will have its first atomic reactor soon. Participating in an international conference in Dhaka, President Ershad said substantial work on the project has been completed. The president said that the government plans to have another nuclear power plant in the western region. The first reactor is being installed at Sawat near Dhaka.

Commentary Discusses Nuclear Energy Program

BK271355 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1237 GMT 27 Jan 85

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Against the backdrop of the growing energy problem due to scarcity of the sources of energy, government has taken a positive move to establish a nuclear power project in the western zone of the country. Efforts have been initiated to obtain the required funds to implement the project for which the feasibility study has already been completed.

President Ershad has once again made it quite clear that government attaches priority to the nuclear power project for creating a new base for peaceful nuclear uses, particularly in the energy sector. Inaugurating a 4-day international conference on physics and energy for development in Dhaka yesterday, the president rightly said the scarcity of the sources of energy has become a major hurdle in the way of overall development of the country. He underlined the need on the part of the scientists to undertake research on nuclear and renewable sources of energy. About the nuclear power project in the western zone, the president noted that its implementation with donors' assistance is needed to meet the growing energy requirement of the country. The project is considered to be an objective proposition, both technically and economically. In addition to generation of power, it will help improve the infrastructure of the country and acquire a technology which is going to become more useful in future as the hydrocarbon sources all over the world would start dwindling.

In the atomic energy sector, the most heartening aspect of the country's development relates to the experimental atomic energy research center. This center, first in the country, will be operational soon. A substantial part of the work for its implementation has been done by the local scientists and the technologists. President Ershad has rightly termed it as a great success while expressing the hope that the center would go a long way in building up the needed infrastructure of a nuclear program for peaceful purposes in the country. When the center becomes operational, it can be used for research and manpower training for future nuclear plans and production of radio isotopes for their uses in agriculture, medicine, and industries.

Maldives To 'Make Efforts To Start' Air Services

BK230655 Dhaka BSS in English 0621 GMT 23 Jan 85

[Text] Dhaka, Jan 23 (BSS) — Bangladesh and Maldives have agreed to make efforts to start air services as early as possible, it was stated here yesterday.

The Maldives foreign secretary Ibrahim Hussain Zaki headed the two member team which negotiated the deal in the civil aviation sector including the air service agreement.

They concluded that an "endeavours would be made to complete" the necessary formalities as early as possible to sign the agreement during forthcoming IDB [Islamic Development Bank] meeting of the ministers next month.

Bangladesh, Nepal Sign Economic Agreements

BK231020 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1705 GMT 22 Jan 85

[Text] Bangladesh and Nepal have agreed for cooperative development on water resources in South Asian region for benefit in irrigation, flood control, river navigation and power generation. They also agreed to set up joint ventures in quarry crushing and transporting boulders, and (?plinther) factory. [sentence as heard] The two countries agreed that the Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation will undertake a technoeconomic feasibility study, including market survey, for setting up a jute carpet mill in Nepal. They also decided to cooperate in the fields of small and cottage industry.

These agreements are reached during the 4-day meeting of the joint economic commission which ended in Dhaka today. Both the countries signed agreed minutes on these sectors. The Nepalese finance minister, Dr Prakash Chandra Lohani, led his country's delegation at the meeting and the finance adviser Mr M. Syeduz Zaman, led the Bangladesh delegation. They also signed agreed minutes on behalf of their countries.

Arms Recovered in Chittagong Hideout Raids

BK270304 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1705 GMT 26 Jan 85

[Text] Extension of amnesty facilities by the government up to 25 April this year has aroused great enthusiasm among the misguided people of Chittagong hill tract region resulting in more and more surrenders. During the last 4 days, nine members of the so-called Shanti Bahini surrendered to the law enforcing agencies at Panchari, Dighinala, Lama, and Alikadam areas. During the period, the security forces in a number of raids recovered 1 light machine gun, 1 (?sub)machine gun, 1 .303 rifle, 150 rounds of ammunition from various hideouts.

Six-Nation Disarmament Summit Opens in New Delhi

Papandreou, Palme Arrive

BK270412 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 27 Jan 85

[Text] The prime ministers of Sweden and Greece have arrived in New Delhi to attend the 6-nation summit on global peace and disarmament beginning tomorrow. Mr Olof Palme and Mr AndreasPapandreou were received at the airport by the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi; the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Khurshid Alam Khan; senior officials; and others.

Talking to All-India Radio correspondent Paramesh Kashyap on arrival last night, the Greek prime minister, Mr Papandreou, said the objective of the summit is to discuss measures to prevent escalation of nuclear weapons and arms rivalry in space. Describing the summit as a great effort, he said it is only proper that the meeting is taking place in New Delhi as India stands for world peace. He said the United Nations, the Soviet Union, and to some extent the United States have referred to the summit as an important initiative. India's foreign policy and its role in the international affairs under the leadership of the late prime minister, Mrs Indira Gandhi, and now under Mr Rajiv Gandhi plays an important role in the quest for peace. He said the summit also offers an opportunity to the participants to pay homage to Mrs Gandhi, who took the intiative for the summit.

The presidents of Mexico and Tanzania are arriving in New Delhi this evening. The president of Argentina, Dr Raul Alfonsin, is already in the capital.

De la Madrid, Nyerere Arrive

BK271303 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 27 Jan 85

[Text] The president of Mexico, Mr Miguel de la Madrid, arrived in New Delhi this afternoon to attend the 6-nation disarmament summit being held tomorrow. He was received at the airport by the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, and the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Khurshid Alam Khan.

Mr de la Madrid told our correspondent that he hoped tomorrow's summit will make an important contribution to create a climate of detente. He said his country believes in peace, which is absolutely necessary, and in the principle of nonintervention and finding peaceful solutions to various problems. Besides attending the 6-nation summit, Mr de la Madrid is also paying 3-day state visit to this country. Bilateral talks will be held between the visiting president and the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, on Tuesday and Wednesday. The two countries are expected to sign a number of agreements during Mr de la Madrid's stay in New Delhi.

President Julius Nyerere of Tanzania has expressed a hope that the nuclear powers would heed the appeal of the six-nation disarmament summit. Talking to the All-India Radio correspondent soon after his arrival at the airport this afternoon, he said the heads of government are going to make an appeal on behalf of the entire humanity for peace.

President Nyerere said he is confident that the superpowers will take note of the summit declaration.

Mr Nyerere was received at the airport by the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Khurshid Alam Khan, and top officials of the External Affairs Ministry.

Summit Session Begins

BK280801 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Text] The 6-nation summit on global peace and nuclear disarmament began in New Delhi this morning. It is being attended by the presidents of Argentina, Mexico, and Tanzania, and the prime ministers of Sweden, Greece, and India. The visiting heads of government arrived in Vigyan Bhawan and were received by Mr Rajiv Gandhi. The morning session of the summit was a closed-door one. There will be an open session in the afternoon when the leaders of the six countries will make individual statements. This will be followed by the adoption of a joint statement. After the open session, there will be a joint news conference. President Giani Zail Singh is hosting a lunch today in honor of the visiting dignitaries.

Rasgotra Addresses News Conference

BK271627 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Jan 85

[Text] The All-India Radio correspondent says that Vigyan Bhawan, the venue of the [6-nation] summit, is once again humming with activity and the media center is ready to cater to the large number of correspondents covering the summit.

Addressing a news conference at the media center this evening, the foreign secretary, Mr M.K. Rasgotra, said that officials of the six countries have examined in great detail the draft of the joint statement to be issued at the conclusion of the summit.

In reply to a question, he hoped the message of summit will have the right kind of effect on the superpowers and the people at large. He pointed out that the appeal issued by six leaders on 22 May last year had a very positive impact on public opinion all over the world. A mass movement in favor of nuclear disarmament has been building up even in the nuclear weapon countries.

Mr Rasgotra welcomed the announcement by the United States and the Soviet Union that the expected high-level talks on disarmament will be resumed in Geneva in early March. It was his assessment that last year's joint appeal by the six leaders had possibly something do with the decision of the superpowers to resume negotiation. He felt that the summit participants will have something to say on the militarization of outer space, which has become a menace.

Giving the background for the 22 May appeal, Mr Rasgotra said that the initiative for that move had come from Parliamentarians for World Order who had approached the late prime minister,

Mrs Indira Gandhi, and had suggested that the middle powers should take the initiative to halt the nuclear arms race which may endanger the whole humanity. The joint appeal addressed to the five nuclear weapon states — the United States, the Soviet Union, China, United Kingdom, and France — had urged them to halt all testing, production and deployment of nuclear weapons and their delivery systems to be followed by substantial reduction in nuclear forces.

Declaration Finalized

BK280859 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Excerpt] Heads of six nations representing the six continents of the world finalized their declaration at a closed-door meeting of the summit on nuclear disarmament in New Delhi this morning. The meeting lasted 2 hours. The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, presided. The All-India Radio correspondent understands that the declaration, which is in the nature of a joint appeal, calls upon the five nuclear powers to stop testing all nuclear weapons immediately and not to militarize the outer space. It was decided that these leaders will visit various world capitals and personally urge the leaders of these nations to put a halt to nuclear proliferation and save humanity. The joint appeal will be communicated to the nuclear powers immediately through their envoys in New Delhi.

The appeal is based on the joint appeal for disarmanent by six world leaders on the 22d of May last year. The move was initiated by Mrs Indira Gandhi. Our correspondent adds that the appeal focussed on the escalating arms race and deployment of nuclear weapons in outer space which poses much greater threat to the world. It says that not only should the deployment of nuclear weapons be stopped on the surface of the earth but also in the seas. The declaration is expected to be adopted formally in an open session this afternoon.

Participants' Comments Cited

BK281308 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Text] Six heads of state and government, representing all the continents of the world, have appealed for a halt to the testing, production, and deployment of nuclear weapons; a comprehensive test ban treaty; and prevention of the arms race in outer space. They adopted a declaration at the end of the 1-day summit in New Delhi this evening. The summit was attended by the presidents of Argentina, Mexico, and Tanzania and the prime ministers of Sweden, Greece, and India.

The Delhi declaration says a halt to the nuclear arms race is imperative. Only this will ensure that the nuclear arsenals do not grow. It should be followed by a substantial reduction, and then, complete elimination of nuclear weapons.

Finally, there should be total disarmament. The declaration says a nuclear war can be prevented if there is a universal demand for the right to live.

The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, in his address at the open session, said even the first nuclear strike will bring a holocaust and both the aggressor and the victim will be wiped out. Even if a fraction of nuclear weapons stockpiled by the superpowers is used, whole civilization [as heard] will end. Mr Gandhi said a strong campaign has to be launched against the multiplication of nuclear arms. He said as non-nuclear states, we are building a public opinion against nuclear war and defending ourselves, not with arms, but with words. Mr Gandhi said the proponents of the balance-of-terror theory take the credit that no nuclear weapons had been used since 1945, but questioned how can they prevent a use of these weapons through misjudgment or human failure.

President Raul Alfonsin of Argentina said world peace is becoming more and more uncertain every day. A nuclear war will destroy everything on our planet and thus take away the right to live, which is intrinsic.

Echoing the sentiments expressed by the Argentine president, Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou of Greece said with the increasing improvement in accuracy and speed of nuclear weapons, it is almost impossible to exercise political judgment and logic to prevent triggering of a nuclear war.

The Mexican president, Mr Miguel de la Madrid, pointed out that the arms rivalry and consequent political tensions undermine the sovereignty of nations. He said the nuclear arms are not the exclusive concerns of the superpowers.

The Swedish prime minister, Mr Olof Palme, said what is more alarming is that there are dangers of nuclear arms even being spread to outer space. Responsibility of ensuring world peace must be realized by those producing nuclear weapons.

The president of Tanzania, Mr Julius Nyerere, describing nuclear arms as sophisticated instrument of death, said development of all new weapons must be abandoned. He said the existing weapons can be reduced in number and ultimately dismantled. All nuclear weapons research programs must also be completely stopped.

Commentary on Summit's Objectives

BK251415 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1340 GMT 25 Jan 85

[Commentary by C.V. Vaidyanathan, PTI special correspondent]

[Text] Leaders of six peace-loving nations are meeting in New Delhi on January 28 in what could be the beginning of a worldwide campaign against the nuclear arms race. Nuclear disarmament has become one of the most serious concerns of mankind today, for the very survival of human beings on this planet is at stake. The six-nation summit will bring together India, Tanzania, Mexico, Argentina, Greece and Sweden in their search for an acceptable approach to bring an end to the never-ending arms race that threatens human survival.

The summit being held in New Delhi at the invitation of the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, is the first since the joint

appeal issued by them on May 22 last year for global peace and disarmament. The signatories to the appeal included the late prime minister, Mrs Indira Gandhi; the prime minister of Sweden, Mr Olof Palme; the prime minister of Greece, Mr Andreas Papandreou; President Julius Nyerere of Tanzania; President Miguel de la Madrid of Mexico; and president of Argentina, Mr Raul Alfonsin. They had addressed the appeal to the five nuclear-weapon states — the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain, France and China — for a halt to all testing, production and deployment of nuclear weapons and their delivery systems to be immediately followed by substantial reductions in nuclear forces. The initiative for this move came from the Parliamentarians for World Order — an international organization which brings together parliamentarians from over 50 countries including India. The disarmament appeal comes in the wake of increasing threats from accumulation of nuclear armaments. In their attempt to excel one another, nuclear-weapon states have accumulated a variety of the most sophisticated destructive weapons, and the unending race to develop weapons of greater sophistication and destructive power goes on.

What is of importance in the campaign against the nuclear arms race is the creation of greater awareness among the world citizens about the annihilative powers of such weapons. For, in a nuclear war, it would be (?absurd) to believe that the effect of a nuclear fallout would be confined to the country or countries at war. It has been estimated that there are about 50,000 nuclear warheads in the nuclear-weapon states with an explosive power of more than a million bombs of the Hiroshima type. This provides roughly 4 tonnes of dynamite for each inhabitant of the earth — enough to kill the present population on the globe 60 times over. Scientific studies have revealed the horrifying effects of a nuclear war leading to traumatic and environmental catastrophe of unprecedented proportions. What has struck peace-loving nations even more is the announcement of plans to carry nuclear war into outer space despite the realization that nuclear-weapon states are heading toward self-destruction.

Apart from these threats facing humanity as a whole, the enormously wasterful expenditure of resources on the arms race by a dozen industrial nations also underlines the utter irrationality of the arms buildup. The annual arms expenditure of these nations is estimated to be over $800 billion. Even a small portion of this expenditure could make a significant contribution toward improving the standard of living of the people in poor nations.

The United Nations General Assembly has devoted two special sessions to disarmament, but with only meager results. It is against this background that the New Delhi Summit of Nonaligned Nations in 1983 devoted so much attention to disarmament. The New Delhi message issued by the summit specifically appeals to great powers to halt the arms race, but the appeals have gone unheeded and not much progress has been registered because of the widely diferring perceptions of nuclear-weapon powers.

The survival of humankind is in jeopardy as the late Mrs Indira Gandhi had pointed out in her appeal. Mrs Indira Gandhi had also stressed that while it is the primary responsibility of nuclear-weapon states to prevent a nuclear catastrophe, this problem is too important to be left to these (?nations) alone. But the signatories to the appeal are united in the conviction that there must not be another world war. Therefore, the urgency is to stop the rush toward global suicide. The world hangs in the balance between war and peace and there is no time to be lost.

Gandhi Meets Papandreou, Renews Cyprus Support

BK280449 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Text] The prime minister has reiterated India's firm support for the integrity and sovereignty of Cyprus. Mr Rajiv Gandhi expressed India's views in his meeting with the Greek prime minister, Mr Andreas Papandreou, who called on him in New Delhi last evening. The two leaders discussed matters of bilateral interest. Mr Gandhi apprised Mr Papandreou of the situation in India's neighborhood where the induction of sophisticated weapons is posing a serious threat to the security and stability in the region.

Gandhi, Zail Singh Attend Republic Day Parade

BK261629 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 Jan 85

[Excerpts] The nation today celebrated the 36th Republic Day. An impressive march past, presentation of awards for distinguished service in various fields and cultural functions marked the day. The highlight of the celebrations was a spectacular parade in the capital. The president, Giani Zail Singh, who is the supreme commander of the Armed Forces, took the salute at the impressive parade at Rajpath. Latest achievements in weaponry system were displayed by the Army, the Navy and the Air Force.

The ceremony began with Mr Rajiv Gandhi paying homage to the immortal soldiers at the Amar Jawan Jyoti under the imposing arch of the India Gate. At a moving ceremony he laid a wreath at the eternal flame as a bugle sounded the last post. Silence was observed for a short while.

Shortly afterwards, the president arrived in state accompanied by the Argentine president, Dr Raul Alfonsin, who was the chief guest. The two dignitaries were received by the prime minister and introduced to the defense minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, and the three service chiefs; 21 guns boomed in salute as the national flag was unfurled and the bands played the national anthem. A formation of four MI-8 helicopters fluttering the tricolor showered rose petals over the people all along the Rajpath.

The contingents of cavalry then marched past the saluting base and they were followed by the mechanized column. This year's highlight was the (Kavadrat) weapon system — a very accurate surface-to-air missile and a powerful deterrent to enemy aircraft. Tanks fitted with [word indistinct] which enable them to locate mines and mobile (?tropo) terminal for long-distance field area communication were also displayed for the first time. The mechanized column was led by the Vijayanta tanks and the T-72 tanks.

The naval section at the parade included floats of models of Pondicherry class minesweeper, the latest addition to the Navy's

task force, and the Sandhayak class survey vessels. The Air Force section displayed the indigenously manufactured HPT-32 trainer aircraft, 3-dimensional mobile radar and Scorpion antitank missiles.

Sri Lankan Security Minister To Visit New Delhi

BK261601 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 Jan 85

[Text] The national security minister of Sri Lanka, Mr Lalith Athulathmudali, is expected to visit New Delhi as President Jayewardene's special envoy. Besides having talks on the recent developments in Sri Lanka, he is likely to discuss dates and other details with the prime minister for a meeting between Mr Rajiv Gandhi and Mr Jayewardene. It will be the first high-level contact between the two countries since the formation of the new government headed by Mr Rajiv Gandhi. The date of the Sri Lankan minister's visit to the capital is not yet known.

The All-India Radio correspondent understands that Mr Jayewardene's decision to send a senior Cabinet minister to New Delhi came out as a result of a telephone call by Mr Rajiv Gandhi to the Sri Lankan president early this month.

Poland's Jaruzelski To Visit in February

BK270502 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 27 Jan 85

[Text] The prime minister of Poland, General Jaruzelski, will pay an official visit to India in the second week of next month. General Jaruzelski is coming to India at the invitation of the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi.

Madhya Pradesh Governor on Aid to Bhopal Victims

BK271626 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Jan 85

[Text] The Madhya Pradesh governor, Mr K.M. Chandi, has said that the state government is fully seized with the problem created by the Bhopal gas leakage. He said the government would try and do its best for the affected people.

In a broadcast, he said that rehabilitation of the affected people is a stupendous task and the recovery of compensation through court is a long drawn process. He said, however, the government is aware that the victims, mostly poor, cannot wait for long.

Madhya, Himachal Pradesh Elections on 2, 5 March

BK241115 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 24 Jan 85

[Text] Assembly elections in Himachal Pradesh will be held on 5 March. The Election Commission has agreed to the request of the state government in this regard. The assembly in the state was dissolved yesterday by the governor on the recommendation of the chief minister.

The deputy election commissioner, Mr V. Ramakrishnan, told our correspondent in New Delhi today that the commission has also agreed to have the assembly elections in Madhya Pradesh on 2 March instead of on 5 as announced earlier. The request was made by the state government.

Three Killed as Police Fire on Textile Strikers

BK270312 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 27 Jan 85

[Text] In Maharashtra, three people were killed and six others injured when police opened fire to quell a violent mob of workers at (Mahune) near Kalyan yesterday. Police said the incident occurred when a large number of striking workers gathered outside a textile mill, turned violent, and pelted stones. About 35 policemen were also injured.

Police Disperse 'Mob' in Jammu, One Killed

BK271557 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Jan 85

[Text] One person was killed and three seriously injured in police firing at Katra near Jammu today. The police resorted to firing to disperse a violent crowd.

The trouble started when a mob tried to seize a truck carrying cattle under proper permission and which was stopped by police for verification.

The situation is now under control.

Zia Discusses Elections, Afghanistan, India

BK271147 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0500 GMT 27 Jan 85

[Text] President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq has categorically stated that the general elections will be held strictly in accordance with the program he announced on 12 January. He said the elections to national and provincial assemblies will be held, God willing, on 25 and 28 February respectively and the parliament or the Federal Advisory Council will hold its session on 23 March as scheduled.

The president stated this in an interview with a panel of editors and senior journalists of *PAKISTAN TIMES, MASHRIQ, IMROZ, MORNING NEWS,* and *AKHBAR-E KHWATIN* dailies in Rawalpindi on Friday evening. The interview has been published today.

He said the government will remain fully neutral, there is no question of postponing elections, and all speculations in this regard are baseless. In reply to a question about election activities, he said he is fully satisfied with them and is hopeful that the general elections will be conducted as successfully as the referendum.

Replying to a question about waiving disqualifications of candidates, the president said it is his endeavor to allow more and more men of character and virtue to participate in elections. The president emphasized that there will be new leadership in Pakistan that will discharge its future responsibilities efficiently. The country's interest lies in the fact that we should work with new and fresh ideas and enthusiasm for the better future of the nation, the president observed.

In reply to another question, the president said he has established indirect contact with some politicians. He is also in direct contact with many politicians and will remain so in the future. He said it has been his policy from the very beginning that the personal ego should not be allowed to find a place in Pakistani politics. We all ought to know what we can do that will be in the best interest of the country. My door is always open, the president observed.

In reply to another question, the president said he is expected to announce the amendments to the Constitution in about 2 weeks. Our effort now is to make Pakistan stronger, keeping the complete history of the nation in view. It is for this reason that we want to maintain a balance between the powers of the president and the powers of the prime minister. The president said it is the responsibility of the national assembly to decide whether old parties should be revived or new ones should be established.

About the national security council, the president said this council will consist of the president, the prime minister, four provincial chief ministers, the joint chiefs of staff committee chairman, and the three armed forces chiefs. This will be a permanent body and its meeting will be called in the event of any urgent problem of national importance. The council will review the problem and guide the nation.

In reply to a question about the future prime minister, the president said he will invite for this position only that Muslim member of the national assembly who will enjoy the total support of the house. It will be much better if the prime minister is from a smaller province.

About Afghanistan, the president expressed the hope that some progress will be made toward a settlement of this problem during the next round of indirect talks in Geneva. He said these talks will take place next April.

About increased violations of Pakistani territory from Afghanistan, the president said Pakistan will make clear to the Soviet authorities that such aggressive actions are unfriendly steps against Pakistan, which reserves the right to retaliate appropriately. So far, we have only resorted to protests and acted with restraint in response to these aggressive actions. We will continue to do so in the future, the president added.

Replying to a question about the outcome of efforts to foster friendship and goodwill with the new prime minister of India, the president referred to his meeting with the Indian prime minister in New Delhi and expressed the hope that when Rajiv Gandhi pays attention to other issues after having overcome current problems in India, he will first of all extend his hand of friendship to Pakistan and then to other neighbors. He emphasized that Indian-Pakistani relations should be promoted and given a new dimension. About the furor in India over Pakistan's acquisition of arms for its defense, the president said the Indian effort to secure a veto right against Pakistan is highly unjustified.

As regards a fresh spy scandal in India revealing that a stolen document indicates that a conspiracy had been hatched for a preemptive attack on Pakistan's nuclear installations used for peaceful purposes, the president said this revelation vindicates the worries we had as a result of certain disclosures in Washington 2 months ago. The president said we are making full efforts to secure any proof about this conspiracy and we then might pressure India in a friendly manner to make it understand that this type of thinking will not be beneficial for Pakistan or India, or for any of their neighboring countries.

The president also answered questions about Pakistani women and said we want their organized participation in all walks of life. Under the true Islamic spirit, I understand, women should play their role in fields more appropriate for them, the president observed.

Zia Greets Indian Chiefs of State, Government

BK260711 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0500 GMT 26 Jan 85

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has sent separate greetings messages to Indian President Giani Zail Singh and Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on India's Republic Day today.

In his message to President Giani Zail Singh, the president expresses the hope that Pakistan and India will continue joint efforts to foster mutual trust and confidence, strengthen understanding, and promote cooperation to benefit both peoples and the cause of peace and stability in the region. In his message to Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, President Ziaul Haq says that

friendly, good-neighborly relations between Pakistan and India serve the best interests of our two peoples. He adds that the Government of Pakistan will continue to extend its fullest cooperation in strengthening mutual trust and confidence.

UN Apprised of 21, 22 Jan Afghan Air Violations

BK260602 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0500 GMT 26 Jan 85

[Text] Pakistan has apprised the United Nations of two serious airspace violations from the Afghan side. In a letter to Secretary General Perez de Cuellar, Pakistani Ambassador Shah-Nawaz said that the incidents occurred on 21 and 22 January and that on each occasion, two Afghan aircraft intruded into the Arandu area and dropped two bombs. The letter was published on 25 January as a document of the Security Council as well as of the General Assembly.

Pakistan Reports on Afghan Mujahidin Operations

BK251553 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 25 Jan 85

[Text] Reports from Kabul say additional large-scale reinforcements have been sent to the Soviet-Karmal forces for a new operation against the mujahidin in Nangarhar and Paktia Provinces. The mujahidin have been besieging some parts of these provinces for the last 2 months.

The mujahidin reportedly shot down an aircraft that was bombing their positions in Farah Province. They killed a number of Soviet-Karmal soldiers and damaged two tanks.

In yet another operation in Lowgar Province, the mujahidin killed several soldiers.

SRI LANKA

PRC Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian Visits Sri Lanka

Jayewardene Hosts Lunch

BK251410 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 25 Jan 85

[Text] The visiting Chinese foreign minister, Wu Xueqian, was hosted at a lunch by President Jayewardene at the Janadhipati Mandiraya [presidential palace] this afternoon. Foreign Minister Shahul Hameed was also present on the occasion.

Having talks with Mr Hameed, the Chinese foreign minister had stated that his government was totally opposed to the division of Sri Lanka and stood for the unity, territorial integrity and sovereignty of the country. He had stated that problems facing Sri Lanka were an internal matter and should be solved without outside interference. Mr Hameed had explained to the visiting minister the measures being taken by the government to find a solution to the ethnic problem. He had stressed that the immediate task facing the government was to contain terrorism and to ensure peace and security in the north and east. He said that Sri Lanka attached great importance to friendly countries that understood our ethnic problem. Mr Hameed also thanked Mr Wu Xueqian for the assistance that the People's Republic of China had been giving to Sri Lanka from time to time — the most recent example being China's assistance for the new Supreme Court complex at Hulftsdrop.

The Chinese minister, who is here on an official visit at the invitation of Mr Hameed, leaves the island tomorrow morning.

Speaks at News Conference, Departs

BK261205 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 26 Jan 85

[Text] Chinese Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian has expressed the hope that Sri Lanka would find a peaceful solution to the present problem. He told a news conference in Colombo this morning that China has over 50 nationalities and all of them are treated equally. He pointed out that if there were any differences or disputes, they should be resolved through peaceful negotiations for national harmony.

In reply to a question, the Chinese minister said that he did not discuss the subject of arms with Sri Lankan leaders and officials. Mr Wu said that China's increased relationship with Sri Lanka would bring peace not only to Asia but to the entire world.

He also told newsmen that he was hopeful that the future arms talks between the superpowers would bring about fruitful results.

In reply to another question, the Chinese minister pointed out that if his country was invited to participate in the 30th anniversary celebrations of the Bandung Conference by the Indonesian authorities, it would favorably consider the invitation.

Mr Wu and party left the island this morning after a 4-day visit. During his stay, he met President Jayewardene, Prime Minister Premadasa, and Foreign Minister Shahul Hameed. The Chinese minister was impressed by the activities of the free trade zone. Sri Lanka and China have agreed to exchange delegations in future on matters of bilateral and other issues.

He invited his counterpart, Mr Hameed, to visit China.

Prime Minister on Indian Aid to Separatists

BK261203 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 26 Jan 85

[Text] Prime Minister R. Premadasa has said that the Indian prime minister has stated that he would not have discussions with the Sikh party Akali Dal unless they reject terrorism and accept the Constitution. Similarly, he has asked whether it was correct for the opposition to criticize the statement made by the president that he would not hold discussions with the Tamil United Liberation Front if they do not accept a united Sri Lanka.

Addressing Parliament yesterday, the prime minister noted that the only obstacle to the elimination of terrorism in Sri Lanka was the protection, training, and assistance that the terrorists were receiving in south India. The prime minister requested all political parties in the country to make a common statement urging India not to permit terrorists to continue to have their camps there and carry out activities against Sri Lanka. Such a joint statement, he added, was essential if friendship between India and Sri Lanka was to be strengthened and if unity and sovereignty of the country were to be recognized.

Prime Minister Blames TULF for Plight of Tamils

BK271133 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 27 Jan 85

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Premadasa pointed out the necessity today to save the innocent Tamil and Muslim population in the northern and eastern provinces who are undergoing many difficulties because of the (?cunning) politics of the Tamil United Liberation Front and the growing menace of terrorism. Mr Premadasa described the people in these two areas as innocent men and women who respect nonviolence.

Addressing a public meeting which followed the opening of another model village in the Kuliyapitiya electorate yesterday, Mr Premadasa expressed his regret that he could not ensure the implementation of the (Gambudhava) mobile service in the northern and eastern provinces.

Mr Premadasa also stressed the need for religious observances with the aim of ensuring the protection of the Muslim and Tamil population in these two provinces. He said that 3 February would be ideal for this purpose. The prime minister also reiterated the government's firm determination not to allow the terrorists to destroy this country.

Hameed Leaves for Europe; Athulathmudali in U.S.
BK271119 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 27 Jan 85

[Text] Sri Lanka will brief the British and French Governments on the present situation in the country. Foreign Minister Shahul Hameed left today for London and Paris. He will have talks with British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe and French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas.

Mr Hameed is also due to meet representatives of other organizations during his visit and brief them on the situation prevailing in the country.

The minister of national security, Lalith Athulathmudali, is also in Washington for talks with the U.S. officials. Diplomatic sources said that he would brief the U.S. officials on the present situation in the country and seek assistance.

Mr Athulathmudali will meet the assistant secretary for Northeast and Southeast Asian affairs, Richard Murphy, tomorrow, and wind up discussions with the secretary of state, George Shultz.

Athulathmudali Speaks at Military Ceremony
BK241117 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 24 Jan 85

[Text] The passing out ceremony of those who received military training so that they could be resettled at the Nayaru and Kokawila fishing villages took place at Negombo yesterday. The minister of national security, Lalith Athulathmudali, inspected the military parade of these young fishermen.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Athulathmudali said that the fishermen of Nayaru and Kokawila who had once been a peaceful lot now had to be organized to meet destructive challenges following terrorist attacks on them. He said that these families will be resettled in their villages now that they have received training and the strength to meet any violent threat.

The minister of fisheries, Festus Perera, thanked Mr Athulath mudali for providing this fishing population with the necessary training to protect their lives and the country.

Thatcher To Open Mahaweli Project in April
BK271123 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 27 Jan 85

[Excerpt] British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher will visit Sri Lanka in April this year to declare open the massive Victoria reservoir project coming under the accelerated Mahaweli Development Program. The British Government has granted more than 100 million pounds to Sri Lanka for the construction of this reservoir, which will provide irrigation facilities to more 100,000 acres in (?systems)B and C of the Mahaweli scheme.

This was announced by the minister of land and land development and Mahaweli development, Gamini Dissanayake, at a public meeting in Kandy yesterday.

Musavi Returns From Tour of Turkey, Nicaragua

LD270710 Tehran IRNA in English 0659 GMT 27 Jan 85

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 27, IRNA — Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi concluded his 7-day visit to Turkey, Cuba and Nicaragua and returned home Saturday.

In a press conference at Tehran's Mehrabad International Airport, the prime minister described his talks with Turkish officials as "fruitful."

He said that two contracts for cultural and commercial exchanges, and another one for laying pipelines to carry Iran's oil and natural gas were concluded in Turkey.

Musavi said that he discussed various Latin American, regional and international issues with Nicaragua President Daniel Ortega and other officials during his stay in Nicaragua.

Refuting recent statements of U.S. President Ronald Reagan on Iran's cooperation with Nicaragua in terrorist activities, the prime minister stressed that the U.S. was still thinking that Nicaragua was part of its territory and still had feudalistic ideas in its mind.

He noted that in his short stays in Venezuela and Spain he had outlined Iran's stance vis-a-vis world issues in meetings with officials of those countries.

Prime Minister Musavi and his high-ranking political-economic delegation were welcomed at the airport by a number of military and civil officials.

During Musavi's stay in Turkey, a 3-billion-dollar worth contract was signed between the two countries for a one-year trade and economic cooperation.

According to the contract, Iran will export crude oil, oil products and some non-oil goods to Turkey and in return will import metals, textiles, machinery, chemicals, electrical and electronic equipments and plastic products.

Iran and Turkey signed another contract according to which Iran's crude oil will be carried through pipelines to the Mediterranean coasts and the Black Sea and from there to other points in the world.

While in Nicaragua, Prime Minister Musavi reiterated Iran's support for deep-rooted struggles of Nicaraguan Government and people for their freedom and independence.

The two sides also held talks on mutual trade cooperation.

During his 6-hour stopover in Cuba, Musavi discussed regional problems with Cuban leader Fidel Castro.

Musavi was accompanied by Commerce Minister Hasan Abedi-Ja'fari, Minister of State for Executive Affairs Gholamreza Aqazadeh, a number of officials from Foreign Affairs and Commerce Ministries, and a press delegation.

Reportage on Reaction to Trip by Musavi

Majlis Speaker Comments

LD251328 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Jan 85

[Excerpts] On the eve of the birth anniversary of the Holy Zeynab [Imam Hoseyn's sister], peace be upon her, today the religio-political Friday prayers ceremonies were held all over the Islamic homeland with the participation of millions of Muslim and revolutionary people. A great and glorious congregation took place in Tehran University, as in previous weeks, under the imamate of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

In his second sermon, the Majlis speaker, referred to the demise of the Grand Ayatollah Khansari and thanked those compatriots who attended memorial services held in honor of that divine scholar.

Referring to the trip to Nicaragua by Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi, the Majlis speaker said: This trip forced the U.S. leaders, who are mothers of the world's terrorists, to say loudly: Iran spreads terrorism in the world. But the superpower's terrorist stances are known to everyone, so there is no need for further comment.

In connection with important issues of the region and our country in the previous week, the imam's representative at the Supreme Defense Council made the following remarks:

[Begin Hashemi-Rafsanjani recording] Lebanon is the first case in which Israel, under the pressure of the struggling people, has been forced to retreat and leave land it had occupied. Of course, it retreated from the Sinai desert before, but not without gaining concessions which dragged the world of Islam into discord and took Egypt to Camp David. Crimes were committed of which you are well aware.

Now for the first time a handful of noble, honest, freedom-loving, militant, and rifle-bearing people have succeeded in forcing Israel to concede and accept the bitter taste of defeat; and it was forced to begin its first phase of escape in disgrace without any concessions. The same Israel which criticized the United States, Britain, France, and Italy in the past for their timidity and for fleeing after one bomb explosion has now been forced to follow suit. Lebanon, home of the Muslims, can be the summit of their hopes and a starting point for the rout of the Israelis and their supporters, God willing. May Allah assist other Muslims to continue this path. [Shouts of approval and "God is great" from the crowd; chanting of slogans saying "Death to the United States and Israel"]

There is another important issue which requires a greater discussion: the issue of the 7-man inter-Arab commission in Baghdad, called the peace mission of the Islamic Conference Organisation [ICO]. I will mention this issue very briefly, because I have prepared another topic for this week's discussion. They handled the subject of their meeting very poorly. A group of ministers sat around a table with their counterpart from the country which is a warmonger and started the war. After several days of talks, they came out and stretched their hands towards Western coun-

tries, the original warmongers, who are the real initiators of this war. The ministers begged the Westerners to put pressure on Iran and asked them to enter the arena against Iran in order to save Saddam from the trouble that he has created.

If they were wise men, they would have thought of ways to hand Saddam over to the court of justice. They should have thought of a fate for this tyrant, who, in the hope of becoming the hero of Qadisiyah [place in Iraq where the forces of Islam defeated Iranians at the time of Khalif 'Omar], turned himself to the defeated Moshe Dayan. If that were to happen, we would be able to take a step toward the path they are proposing. But if they were to repeat their previous remarks, then we would repeat our past words: Nothing in this world can satisfy our martyr-giving nation except the trial and punishment of the aggressor in this war, the 'Aflaqite Ba'thist regime of Iraq. [Shouts of approval and "God is the greatest" from the crowd]

Another important topic is the presence of UN representatives in our country to inspect the camps of the Iraqi POW's. As far as I am aware, this group was free to go anywhere and inspect anything they wished without an Iranian presence. They interviewed anyone they wanted to and saw the kind of humane treatment that the Islamic Republic is giving to those who fought against us and are now living in our country as guest prisoners. God willing, this UN mission will have the courage to inform the world of realities of our prison camps.

Of course, the UN performed two good and acceptable tasks before. One was the case of the recent bombing of our villages by the Iraqis. In all fairness their report was accurate. Another case involved the use of chemical bombs and they adopted a good stance.

We hope that they will be brave enough to reflect the truth in a way that will expose the false propaganda of the Zionist mouthpieces, which have been trying hard to distort the truth. Then the world will realize that in the realm of Islam's rule even captured prisoners are treated with kindness. Of course, we are not treating the POW's this way in order to please others; this is our duty and our aim is to show the Iraqi Muslims that Iran is the place of Islam and humanity. We are performing our duties and, God willing, the world will be saved from this misunderstanding through an accurate report by the UN officials. [end recording]

Washington's 'Great Fears' Examined

GF262000 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 26 Jan 85

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Washington has been concerned about Prime Minister Musavi's visit to Nicaragua. Washington announced its great fears about any cooperation between the Islamic Republic and the revolutionary government in Managua.

Some commentators said about those fears that there are two countries which Washington fears, one of which is in the East and the other in the West and that U.S. concern will increase with the cooperation of those two countries. These fears were expressed by U.S. President Ronald Reagan. As soon as Mr Musavi's aircraft landed in Managua, the U.S. President announced his government's position on this visit.

In his statement, Reagan stressed that there is economic and military cooperation between Iran and Nicaragua and that this cooperation is a serious threat to international peace. He accused the two countries of exporting terrorism in the world and said that this is a serious threat to peace in the East and West.

Washington has the right to be afraid of this visit, but it has no right to link it with terrorism, because the goal of this visit is a sacred one and all the developing countries and all the countries that are being subject to direct aggression by the superpowers desire the achievement of this goal. It is the right of these countries to cooperate, coordinate, make alliances, and unite in order to resist fateful challenges, and afterwards let Washington say what it wants.

Washington wants the world to remain weak so that it can be the only military power. It wants the world to be divided, uncooperative, and not understand. It wants unity only for itself and its allies in the world. It is not logical that the world should surrender to this desire and that people should be subjugated to this detestable selfishness. It is not logical that the East should stay far from the West and that the United States should stay far from Asia and Africa because disagreements tempt the superpowers to devour the weak ones.

It is Washington's right to be concerned about the Tehran-Managua meeting, because this meeting will create a new force for the good of the oppressed world. This meeting will be a firm step for rapprochement among Third World people with all its meanings of power and strength in the face of oppressive powers, and this is what the colonialists fear.

Let them continue to be afraid, because it is the fate of free people to meet and cooperate in order to confront all challenges.

'Harsh Reaction' Not Unexpected

GF270817 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 27 Jan 85

[Text] The conclusion of the visit by Mr Mir Hoseyn Musavi, the prime minister of our country, to Turkey, Cuba, and Nicaragua, and the announcement of the results of his visit was a confirmation of continuing cooperation between these three countries and the Islamic Republic.

The visit by Mr Musavi started with a 3-day visit to Turkey which dealt mainly with commercial goods exchange between Iran and Turkey. Economic relations between Turkey and Iran are now at their highest point. Turkey was named as the leading country in commercial relations with Iran last year. An important result of this visit was the signing of an agreement between the two countries for setting up a pipeline to transfer Iranian oil and gas to Turkey. According to this agreement, Iranian crude will be carried through this pipeline to the Mediterranean coast and the Black Sea, and then to other parts of the world. Turkey also will

receive its requirements through this source. Iranian gas will be carried to Turkey through a pipeline, and the gas will be carried to Europe through Turkey. The prime minister in this visit, also exchanged views with the president of Turkey, General Kenan Evren, on matters of mutual interest.

Later, the prime minister and his delegation, which consisted of the deputy to prime minister in executive affairs, minister of commerce, and the acting foreign minister, left for Nicaragua.

On his way to Nicaragua, he made a stopover in Cuba where he was received by Fidel Castro, the leader of the Cuban revolution, an assistant to Mr Castro, the minister of foreign affairs, the minister of economic cooperations, and other highranking officials, as well as the ambassador of the Islamic Republic in Cuba.

During his 6-hour meeting with Castro and other high-ranking authorities in Cuba, Mr Prime Minister visited cattle- breeding farms and sugarbeet centers. He also held talks with Castro on various global matters.

Later Mr Mir Hoseyn Musavi and the party left for Managua, the capital of Nicaragua. In Managua, the prime minister and his party were received by the president and the Cabinet of Nicaragua, a number of civil and military authorities, and by the ambassador of the Islamic Republic in Nicaragua. During his 3-day stay in Nicaragua, in addition to meeting with the elected president of Nicaragua, Daniel Ortega, and the vice president, he met a number of Nicaraguan authorities and held talks with them.

Relations between Iran and Nicaragua are within the framework of the campaigns of the oppressed nations of the world against the global oppressors under the leadership of America. These relations are being strengthened. Therefore, the harsh reaction of the Reagan administration against this visit was not unexpected.

In his address to the representatives of Latin American countries, Reagan spoke of the support by Libya, the PLO, and the Islamic Republic for Nicaragua as a new danger to Central America. The State Department spokesman in his press conference also stressed that Iran is supporting Nicaragua with a supply of oil, but that it also intends to send arms to this country. Such hasty and baseless remarks can be attributed to American imperialist fears of an alliance among the nations now under the oppression of the colonialists. The United States, by levying unjust blame for terrorism and unrest on revolutionary nations, has always tried to find a direct or indirect means for aggression on the rights of these nations.

When at the conclusion of his visit, such questions were posed to Mir Hoseyn Musavi in Managua, he said: Our relations with the Government of Nicaragua were relations of friendship leading to justice and fairness and such accusations have always been levied upon the revolutionary nations. We have nobody stationed in Nicaragua, except some personnel in the Embassy of the Islamic Republic. He then said that the reason for such accusations from the President of the United States was that the revolutions of Nicaragua and Iran had undermined the interests of the United States.

According to the prime minister of our country, the visit to Nicaragua was a fruitful one. In this visit he exchanged views on the subjects of Latin America and the Middle East and he had been able to convey the viewpoints of the Islamic Republic on those matters. Officials of the Islamic Republic and Nicaragua have also exchanged views in trade matters, especially in the field of sugar and meat. After his 3-day visit to Nicaragua, the prime minister of our country was seen off by the president of Nicaragua, Daniel Ortega, and other authorities of this country.

Reportage on Madrid Stopover by Hoseyn Musavi

For Madrid and Tehran IRNA coverage of the stopover in Madrid by Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi, and his reply to President Reagan's accusation that Iran is fomenting terrorism in Central America, see the Spain section of the 28 January Western Europe *DAILY REPORT*.

Daily Sees President Reagan as 'Real Terrorist'

LD271843 Tehran IRNA in English 1820 GMT 27 Jan 85

["The Real Terorist" — IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 27, IRNA — In its Sunday issue, the English-language daily *KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL* commented on American statements made during a visit by Iranian Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi, in an editorial titled "Who Is the Real Terrorist?"

"The word terrorist is heard or read so much in our time that people often forget what a terrorist is. We think of a terrorist as an individual who either destroys or kills. While the dictionary tells us that to terrorize simply means to make one tremble, or to kill with terror or anxiety.

"Terror, from the Middle French terreur, means to frighten. In this context, the whole conception we have of terrorism changes. In other words, not only a person who threatens another person with a gun or takes innocent hostages is a terrorist, anyone, at any place, in any situation, by any means, who scares others is a terrorist as well...[IRNA ellipsis]

"In the White House lexicon, Nicaragua is governed by a terrorist regime. Why? Simply because the revolutionary government does not allow the multi-nationals headed by the U.S. to pillage the wealth of the Nicaraguan people. The people there have risen and put an end to the domination of the Samoza family. For such a courageous act they are called terrorist?...[IRNA ellipsis]

"Daniel Ortega has been put in office following a free election. The people have elected him as the president of Nicaragua. He is a terrorist, Reagan says. But Augusto Pinochet, Ferdinand Marcos, and Menachem Begin are innocent philanthropists.

"Who is Ronald Reagan himself? His CIA murders, foments coups and perpetuates assassinations. His forces in Latin America, in Grenada, in Lebanon, in Southeast Asia initiate all manner of aggression. If we follow the definition of the dictionary, the American president is a terrorist. He is a real one...?"

Rafsanjani Stresses Need for 'Unity' of Forces

LD251434 Tehran IRNA in English 1320 GMT 25 Jan 85

[Text] Tehran, Jan 25, IRNA — Majlis Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani Thursday said the Islamic Republic Party should give priority to support for oppressed people throughout the world.

Rafsanjani was addressing a group of female students of the IRP from Tehran, as well as party supporters from Arak, in the Central Province.

The speaker noted that although the existence of more than one party was stressed in the Constitution, present circumstances required unity of all forces following a unified objective to fight problems threatening the state.

He stressed that if the IRP did not exist in early days of the revolution, there would not have been a power in Iran's political scene to resist anti-revolutionary groups.

Friday Prayers in Qom Address 'Unjust Treatment'

LD252119 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 25 Jan 85

[Text] This week's grand and uniting Friday prayer's in Qom was participated in by all the committed and monotheist people, led by Ayatollah Jannati of Qom's Imam Sadeq School.

The acting Friday imam of Qom, in his first sermon, following the earlier discussions about the need for action, spoke at length with references to the great Koran and the advanced Islamic movement for changing and revitalizing human society.

In his second sermon, the acting Friday imam of Qom, while stating the gains of the Islamic Revolution, warned of the danger of driving away the devoted and sacrificing forces from the foundations and organizations. He said: The start of this movement and the recent unjust treatment of the Hezbollahi forces by the executive organizations is an alarm for this revolution. Replacing and isolating the pious and committed forces, who do not fail to take any action for continuing the path of the Islamic revolution, will not benefit the revolution.

He referred to the war-time problems and shortages and asked the Hezbollah people and the alert people to continue assisting the Islamic Government and continue with their humanitarian duties on the fronts and behind the fronts.

In conclusion, Ayatollah Jannati offered his condolences to the seminaries and the religious communities on the death of the illustrious theologian Grand Ayatollah Khansari.

Trade, Cooperation Agreement Signed With Bulgaria

LD251134 Tehran IRNA in English 0930 GMT 25 Jan 85

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 25 IRNA — A one-year contract for economic, technical and scientific cooperation was signed between Iran and Bulgaria at the conclusion of the visit of a Bulgarian delegation to Iran, Friday.

The contract was signed by Iran's minister of agriculture, 'Abbas 'Ali Zali, and foreign trade minister of Bulgaria, Khristo Khristov, who arrived here on Jan. 21.

According to the contract, the volume of trade between the two countries is predicted to become doubled for the next year.

Prior to his departure, Khristov said that Bulgaria will export machinery, chemicals, oil products, foodstuff, metal products and spare parts to Iran and will import oil, concentrated metals, cotton, cars, mini-buses, agricultural goods, light industries and citrus from the Islamic Republic of Iran.

He added that a plan was prepared for mutual cooperation in the fields of heavy industries, agriculture, mines, geology, and exchange of experts and technical know-how.

In a meeting of the Bulgarian foreign trade minister with economic officials of Iran, the contract for the purchase of 1.250 million tons of Iranian oil by Bulgaria was extended for 1985.

Khristov Comments, Leaves Tehran

LD251429 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Jan 85

[Text] According to our correspondent Khristo Khristov, Bulgarian minister of foreign trade, left Tehran this morning following his stay in Iran and meetings with Mr Khamenei'i, president of the republic, and the ministers of foreign affairs, petroleum, economy and finance, and mines and metals, and also the conclusion of agreements for the exchange of goods and technical and economic cooperation.

At the time of his departure from Tehran, in an interview with our correspondent, the Bulgarian minister of foreign trade expressed satisfaction with his visit to Iran and his meetings with Mr Seyyed 'Ali Khamenei'i, president of the republic, and with a number of ministers of the Islamic Republic of Iran. He added: With the signing of the protocol at the second session, agreements were concluded between Iranian decision-making centers and Bulgarian production companies in accordance with which Bulgaria will export to Iran agricultural machinery, chemical products, petroleum products, drugs, foodstuffs such as cheese and meat, cigarettes, and metal products, and in return it will purchase from Iran petroleum, cotton, nonferrous metals, light industry products, buses, minibuses and agricultural produce, including citrus fruit.

The Bulgarian foreign trade minister added: In the field of the two countries' cooperation in agriculture, heavy industries, geology, exchange of technology and knowhow and in the training of specialist cadres the necessary studies were also carried out. He expressed the hope that the volume of exchange of goods between Iran and Bulgaria will more than double compared to the past and that the two countries will have long-term, and more fruitful cooperation.

In conclusion, the Bulgarian minister of foreign trade said: It is envisaged that a programme for continuous cooperation between Iran and Bulgaria up to 1990 will be prepared.

It is noteworthy that the delegation accompanying the Bulgarian minister of foreign trade, during the stay in Iran, met undersecretaries and heads of decisionmaking centers and exchanged views pertaining to the exchange of goods and mutual cooperation.

Mr Zali, agriculture minister, who on behalf of the Government of the Islamic Republic was responsible for convening the second session between Iran and Bulgaria, said in an interview with our correspondent: In the three commissions on agriculture and energy, industry, trade and financial affairs, problems of interest to the two countries of Iran and Bulgaria were the subject of discussions and studies; and in connection with Iranian-Bulgarian cooperation in agricultural affairs, particularly in the field of exchanging experts and knowhow, talks were held with the Bulgarian delegation and an agreement was signed by the two countries on the export of 3,000 tons of cotton and 1,000 tons of citrous fruit to Bulgaria.

In conclusion, Mr Zali said: Discussions and studies were also carried out in the field of agricultural cooperation, such as veterinary science, veterinary drugs, pest control, fisheries, and forestry. (?He added:) In the final round of talks on economic, technical, and scientific cooperation between Iran and Bulgaria, a mutual cooperation agreement for the coming year was signed by the two countries.

Libyan, Syrian Foreign Ministers Visit Tehran

Li'bya's Al-Turayki Arrives

GF251930 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 25 Jan 85

[Text] 'Ali 'Abd al-Salam al-Turayki, Libyan secretary of the popular committee for foreign relations, made a press statement on his arrival at Tehran Airport this afternoon. He said that he is delighted to visit Tehran in response to an invitation by Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati. He added that the purpose of his visit is to develop bilateral relations and discuss common struggle issues against imperialism and Zionism.

He referred to the recent developments in the Lebanese arena, specifically the fleeing of the Zionist occupation forces from southern Lebanon, and said: We believe that the Zionist entity has been coerced to withdraw from southern Lebanon as a result of continuous resistance and endeavor by the Lebanese people.

Dr al-Turayki continued: We note that the enemies of Islam, the Zionist usurpers, wish to create sedition and disputes among Lebanese forces prior to their departure. We are confident that the Lebanese people are aware of this treacherous plot. Dr al-Turayki emphasized: As Muslims it is our duty to support the struggle of the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples until we overcome the Zionist entity and liberate all occupied Islamic territory.

Dr al-Turayki referred to the changes that have occurred in the region in the wake of the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran and said: The victory of this revolution has effected a total change in our struggle trend. Iran was under the hegemony of and allied with imperialism and Zionism and was a base for them under the rule of the Shah. However, it has regained its role due to the victory of the Islamic revolution. The Islamic heroic Iranian people have stood side by side with the resistance forces against Zionism and imperialism. This joint struggle will continue, God willing, until final victory.

Talks With Velayati

LD261515 Tehran IRNA in English 1504 GMT 26 Jan 85

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 26, IRNA — Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said today, the special characteristic in Irano-Libyan relations was their firm and strategic direction.

In talks with the visiting Libyan foreign minister, 'Ali 'Abd al-Salem al-Turayki, Dr. Velayati said the Palestinian issue is the concern of both Muslims and Arabs.

Referring to the airlift of Ethiopian Jews to occupied Palestine, Velayati said the Sudanese regime should be made to "pay the price" for its collaboration with the enemy of Muslims and Arabs.

He said if appropriate measures were not taken against this collaboration, it would be repeated under other forms in the future.

He also said a positive and promising movement had started among Muslims in the Zionist-occupied territories.

On the withdrawal of Zionist forces from southern Lebanon, Velayati said this was the first time the Zionist regime has been forced to leave occupied lands unilaterally, which is a natural result of the struggle of the Muslim people of southern Lebanon.

In their talks, the two foreign ministers also agreed on the formation of a joint committee for the development of bilateral economic, commercial, cultural and technical cooperation.

The Libyan foreign minister arrived here Friday.

Syrian Foreign Minister Arrives

GF261920 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 26 Jan 85

[Text] Syrian Foreign Minister Mr Faruq al-Shar' arrived in Tehran this afternoon. He was received at the airport by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and by a number of officials from the Foreign Ministry. Mr Faruq al-Shar' made a statement to our correspondent in the airport in which he stressed that common issues and goals between Iran and Syria require continuing contacts and talks between the two countries and that his visit to Iran comes within the framework of the close relations between Iran and Syria. The Syrian foreign minister expressed satisfaction at visiting a country which struggles against imperialism and Zionism.

Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati made a statement in which he stressed that the Syrian foreign minister's visit to Iran comes

within the framework of the fraternal relationship between the two countries. He said that developments witnessed by the region necessitate that we hold continuing contacts with the friendly countries in order to adopt joint decisions to confront current and future problems.

The foreign minister added: It is natural that Syrian and Iranian officials discuss during their talks the bilateral relations which witnessed increasing development during the years that followed the victory of the Islamic revolution, in addition to the necessity of cooperation among the progressive Islamic countries.

Toward the end of his statement, Velayati stressed that the visits between Syrian and Iranian officials go, in fact, beyond the limitations of diplomatic norms and happen to take place within the framework of the fraternal relations between the two countries.

Foreign Ministers Review Policies
LD261838 Tehran IRNA in English 1755 GMT 26 Jan 85

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 26, IRNA -- Foreign ministers of Iran, Syria and Libya reviewed joint policies to coordinate a campaign against imperialism and Zionism in the region, during a meeting here today.

'Ali Akbar Velayati of Iran, 'Ali 'Abd al-Salam al-Turayki of Libya and Faruq al-Shar' of Syria also reviewed the situation in the Middle East and ways and means for a closer cooperation between the three countries.

Al-Turayki, Al-Shar' Meet Khamene'i
LD270620 Tehran IRNA in English 0600 GMT 27 Jan 85

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 27, IRNA — President 'Ali Khamene'i Saturday said that the airlifting of Ethiopian Jews to the occupied Palestine through the collaboration of Sudan was a disgrace for the Islamic world and should be confronted severely.

President Khamene'i was speaking in a meeting with the visiting foreign affairs ministers of Syria, Faruq al-Shar', and of Libya, 'Abd al-Salam al-Turayki, which was also attended by their Iranian counterpart, 'Ali Akbar Velayati and a number of other officials.

He stressed that domination-seeking policies which aimed at exploitation of Islam should be strictly confronted.

The president urged Muslim progressive countries to exert utmost efforts to achieve a united front.

Expressing satisfaction over the constant efforts of foreign affairs ministers of Muslim and progressive countries, President Khamene'i said that such efforts have so far rendered positive results.

During the meeting, Foreign Minister Velayati reported to the president on the endeavors of Muslim and progressive countries to materialise agreements reached by President Khamene'i and his Syrian, Libyan and Algerian counterparts in the former's recent visits to those countries.

Earlier on Saturday, the Libyan and Syrian foreign ministers in separate meetings presented messages of their heads of states to President Khamene'i.

Al-Turayki, Al-Shar' Meet Hashemi-Rafsanjani
LD271915 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 27 Jan 85

[Text] The foreign ministers of Syria and Libya today met with Hashemi-Rafsanjani, speaker of the Majlis, accompanied by Foreign Minister Velayati. The Iranian ambassador to Libya and the Syrian ambassador to Tehran were also present at this meeting.

Foreign Minister Velayati submitted to the Majlis speaker a comprehensive report on recent developments and agreements in the joint sessions of the foreign ministers of Syria, Iran, Libya, Algeria, and the PDRY. He emphasized that the meetings were very helpful in bringing about closer coordination and unity between the countries on the front line of the struggle against imperialism and Zionism.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed his satisfaction with the progress made because of the decisive stands of Libya and Syria with regard to problems in the region and the war imposed by Iraq and Iran. He said: Honesty, friendship, and deep cooperation between Iran, Libya, and Syria is so strong that imperialist propaganda, suffering from this friendship, has lost hope and has angered the arrogant and Zionist forces.

The people and the officials of the Islamic Republic always remember the support shown by the people of Syria and Libya for Iran's just stand in the imposed war. Iran realizes that in spite of the intense propaganda against you, you resisted and your steadfastness dealt a heavy blow on the decaying corpse of imperialism and Zionism.

The speaker of the Majlis added: Cooperation between your countries and the Islamic Republic of Iran has vast and all-encompassing dimensions and we hope that all those countries which have shown resistance to imperialism and Zionism and which are not prepared to compromise will stand alongside you and the steadfast forces of Muslim people in Islamic countries, which are always ready to sacrifice themselves for Islam, will become more united in order to annihilate imperialism and Zionism in the region.

Musavi Meets Visiting Ministers
LD271903 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 27 Jan 85

[Text] Syrian Minister of Foreign Affairs Faruq al-Shar' and Libyan Minister of Foreign Affairs 'Abd al-Salam al-Turayki met with Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi. Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati was also present at this meeting, during which the session of the ministers of foreign affairs of Islamic

and independent countries on plots hatched by imperialism and Zionism against progressive countries of the region were discussed.

Faruq al-Shar' stressed the need for solidarity and unity among progressive countries and said with regard to the withdrawal from southern Lebanon of the regime occupying Jerusalem: Whether Israel wants it or not, it will have to withdraw from southern Lebanon. We know Israel will not withdraw from southern Lebanon unless it is forced to do so. Fortunately, as you are aware, the people of southern Lebanon have put up very good resistance which has proved this point. There is a good unity between religious societies there.

'Abd al-Salam al-Turayki stressed in a speech the need for unity among progressive countries and said: We have shown that we can demonstrate great force if we so wish. We feel that there is an imperialist conspiracy against Iran. Iran's revolution has been very inspiring to us and we thank the nation of Iran, his excellency the imam, and other officials.

Mir-Hoseyn Musavi then emphasized the need for unity among progressive countries of the region in fighting the enemy, and said: The three countries of Iran, Syria, and Libya have repeatedly been subjected to the conspiracies of the superpowers. The gathering of Islamic and progressive countries raises the hopes of other nations. We see a very good future for our relations.

Al-Shar' Comments, Leaves Tehran

LD272302 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 27 Jan 85

[Excerpts] Mr Faruq al-Shar', the Syrian minister of foreign affairs, who had come to Iran in order to hand over the message of President Hafiz al-Asad to President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i and to take part in the tripartite session of ministers of foreign affairs of Iran, Syria, and Libya, was officially seen off tonight by Mr Velayati, the minister of foreign affairs, a number of officials from that ministry, and a number of ambassadors from Islamic countries.

On leaving Tehran, the Syrian minister of foreign affairs gave an interview to our correspondent and commented on the outcome of his trip and the results of negotiations with ministers of foreign affairs of Libya and Iran. He said: In this trip, I submitted the message of Mr Hafiz al-Asad, in connection with the latest developments in the region, to Mr Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i in a meeting with his excellency.

Referring to the joint meetings between the foreign ministers of Iran, Syria, and Libya with officials of our country, he said: In this trip, together with Mr al-Turayki, the Libyan minister of foreign affairs, we had meetings with Mr Khamene'i, Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Mir-Hoseyn Musavi, and Velayati, and discussed certain issues of interest to the three countries which will serve to strengthen our relations and to fulfill the dreams of our countries.

In reply to a question about Mr Khamene'i's emphasis on seriously treating the transfer of Ethiopian Jews to occupied Palestine with the help of the Sudanese regime, and his views on the subject he said: This issue was raised in our negotiations, and we expressed our anxiety and dissatisfaction about the conspiratorial role played by the Sudanese regime in helping to transfer Ethiopian Jews to Israel. We declare that the belief that this act has been carried out on humanitarian grounds and the name given by Western propaganda machines to Israel as the savior of these Jews is wrong.

Israel did not embark on this act because of humanitarian motives. Rather, it was going to use them in fighting the Islamic world. Just as in the past and in setting up the Zionist regime, Israel took the lands of Muslims from them. It is now going to settle these Jews on land belonging to Muslims in order to take away those regions from their rightful owners.

He added: Israel has actually tried to conspire in order to gain domination. The baseless propaganda of the Western media to present it as a humanitarian act will not be believed by the alert people of the world.

He finally added: I am pleased with the outcome of this trip and the discussions we had. I wish to thank Mr Velayati who arranged this tripartite session between our countries.

Al-Turayki Leaves Tehran

LD280839 Tehran IRNA in English 0819 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 28, IRNA — The Libyan Foreign Minister 'Ali 'Abd al-Salam al-Turayki left here Monday morning after a three-day visit to Iran, Libya and Syria. Al-Turayki was seen off at Tehran's Mehrabad International Airport by his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

Speaking in an interview prior to his departure, the Libyan foreign minister described his talks in Tehran as "fruitful" and hoped that such meetings would continue at various levels.

Velayati also hoped that these meetings that follow anti-Zionist objectives, would be further strengthened by Muslim and progressive countries.

During his stay here, the Libyan foreign minister held talks with Iran's President 'Ali Khamene'i and Foreign Minister Velayati.

Al-Turayki said in his meeting with Velayati here Saturday that the Sudanese regime must pay the price for its collaboration in airlifting of Ethiopian Jews to occupied Palestine.

Cooperation Among Islamic Countries Urged

LD271400 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1112 GMT 27 Jan 85

[Unattributed political commentary]

[Text] Yesterday afternoon, the foreign ministers of Iran, Syria and Libya, in a session in Tehran, discussed and studied the current developments in the region and the plots hatched by the arch-Satan and the Zionist regime and aimed at enslaving the

Muslim nations and increasingly plundering the deprived in the region.

During the meeting Mr Velayati, our country's minister of foreign affairs, after a speech on the current developments in the region, emphasized the necessity of joint cooperation and the coordination of progressive forces in confronting imperialist-Zionist plots.

Moreover, following the conclusion of the session, the foreign ministers of Syria and Libya, together with our country's minister of foreign affairs, met and had talks with Mr Khamene'i, the president of the republic.

To begin with, Dr Velayati, giving a detailed report, informed the president on the results of yesterday morning's session and the continuous efforts made toward realizing the agreements reached following the visits to Syria, Libya, and Algeria by our country's president of the republic and his talks with the high-ranking authorities in the three countries.

Then Khamene'i, expressing pleasure for these efforts which have also been coupled with positive and remarkable effects, in a speech addressed to those present, said:

Creating resistance to the Western and arrogant hegemonistic forces, particularly the United States; engendering courage in those countries willing to resist and not to surrender, also sowing doubts within the world powers and thwarting the carrying out of their hegemonistic plans constitute the most important tasks of meetings among progressive and Muslim countries.

Continuing his speech, after a brief reference to the problem of the moving of Ethiopian Jews to occupied Palestine and the Sudanese regime's assistance toward that end, the president of the republic emphasized the increasing seriousness of Muslim nations toward exposing and condemning these shameful, treacherous deeds.

Following the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran and the growth and strengthening of Islamic movements in the region, U.S. imperialism has actively endeavored to realize its odious, anti-human designs by creating a monolithic unity among reactionaries and securing sundry plots toward weakening and isolating the fighting and resisting governments in the region, headed by the Islamic Republic of Iran.

And, therefore, within the context of such a policy, for some time now the coordinated relations between Cairo, Amman, and Baghdad have increasingly expanded and a great many reactionaries have congregated round the axis of supporting Saddam and defending the so-called Arab interests, at a time when the truth of these coordinations and acts of support carried out in various economic, military and political arenas with the blatant aid of world imperialism is nothing but an effort toward enslaving the Muslim nations and crushing those movements calling for the freedom, independence, and stabilization of the sovereignty of Islam and the Koran.

This is because, if protecting the interests of the Arabs and confronting aggression were really the genuine motivation of the defenders and protectors of Saddam, then these false claimants of defending Arab interests would not have remained so indifferent to the continuous aggressions by the Zionist regime and its constant crimes in occupied Palestine and southern Lebanon.

In addition, at a time when a vast part of our Islamic land was occupied by the aggressive Iraqi forces and when our country's inhabited cities were continually being bombed by the Saddamists they would have proved their claims by condemning that blatant aggression and the massacre of civilians!

Now, in such circumstances, it is essential that the fighting, resistant governments in the region, while coordinating their efforts and cooperating toward confronting the iniquitous policies of world arrogance, should increasingly harmonize and strengthen their united ranks and, by neutralizing the plots of world imperialism and strengthening the liberation movements, should prepare the ground for the liberation of the Muslim nations and the destruction of the Zionist regime and the establishment of genuine security and tranquility in the region and for the sovereignty of Islam and the Koran.

Therefore, the Islamic Republic of Iran, in accordance with its Islamic and humanitarian duty, and while coordinating and defending the fighting, resistant governments in the region, has humbly endeavored to prepare the ground more than ever for the expansion and perpetuation of these coordinations and cooperation.

Let us hope that the Muslim nations, thanks to their monolithic unity, and with the destruction of the Zionist regime, will succeed in preparing the conditions toward establishing genuine security and tranquility and the sovereignty of dear Islam over the region.

Turkish Minister Arrives for Economic Talks

LD251445 Tehran IRNA in English 1304 GMT 25 Jan 85

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 25, IRNA — The Turkish deputy foreign minister, Necdet Tezel, arrived in Tehran today for the upcoming tripartite talks between the Islamic Republic, Turkey and Pakistan on economic cooperation.

The Turkish official was welcomed at the airport by Deputy Foreign Minister in Charge of Economic and International Affairs Hoseyn Kazem-Pur Ardabili.

The talks are due to begin on Sunday [27 January] for two days, following the arrival of the delegation from Pakistan.

These talks are aimed at restoring the Regional Cooperation for Development pact (RCD).

Since the Islamic revolution, Iran has established greater economic ties with neighbouring Pakistan and Turkey, with the latter being its largest trade partner in the Third World.

Iranian Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi signed a dlrs three billion trade agreement with Turkey this week, as well as an agreement on laying Iranian oil and natural gas export pipelines in Turkey.

Reportage on Combat Operations in Gulf War

Abadan Hit by Artillery

LD251718 Tehran IRNA in English 1707 GMT 25 Jan 85

[Text] Tehran, Jan 25, IRNA — Fifteen homes and shops were damaged in Abadan as a result of Iraqi artillery fire on the city on Thursday, the joint staff reported.

Communique No. 1983 issued today said two enemy soldiers were killed and three of their mortar launchers were destroyed during cross fire in the Arvand River front in the south.

Sporadic fire exchanges persisted in all fronts Thursday, being more intense in the Qasr-e Shirin Region in the west and the Kushk, Sharhani and Talaiyeh Region in the south.

In the Qasr-e Shirin and Chazzabah Regions, the Iranian Muslim combatants forced the retreat of a number of enemy patrol units and checked on enemy vehicle columns, the communique said.

It added Iranian patrol units carried out reconnaissance activities and inflicted some losses on enemy forces, without suffering any losses or casualties in the western fronts.

40 Iraqis Killed, Injured

LD261526 Tehran IRNA in English 1521 GMT 26 Jan 85

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 26, IRNA — At least 40 Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded during fighting in the western fronts Friday, the Army Joint Staff Communique No. 1984 reported today.

It said one Iraqi anti-aircraft artillery unit, two munitions depots, three trucks carrying personnel, six group bunkers and 14 observation posts were also demolished in the said fronts.

The exchange of fire in the west was more intense in Qasr-e Shirin and Mehran regions.

The communique added that an enemy patrol group intending to infiltrate Iranian positions in the Sumar region was repelled, sustaining casualties.

In the northwestern fronts, the Islamic combatants targeted Iraqi logistic routes during which several enemy vehicles were damaged in the Sardasht front, as well as the Chuman Mustafa and Varas Heights.

One Iraqi truck, six bunkers and one observation post were also destroyed and more than 10 Iraqis were killed or wounded in this region.

Iraqi fortifications and bunkers came under fire in the southern Arvand River front, during which several group bunkers and observation posts, and a heavy vehicle were smashed.

During Iraqi long-range fire on Abadan, two houses and three shops were damaged Friday, concluded the communique.

Iraqis Killed in Northwest

LD271759 Tehran IRNA in English 1754 GMT 27 Jan 85

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 27, IRNA — The military communique number 1985 said today that 30 Iraqi soldiers had been killed or wounded in the northwestern fronts and at least another seven were killed or wounded in the western fronts Saturday.

In the northwestern fronts Iran's Muslim combatants set afire six enemy vehicles along with their crews. They also checked enemy movements.

In Marivan, also in the northwest, an Iraqi patrol unit was spotted and dispersed from the area, the communique added.

Elsewhere in the western battle fronts of Bakhtaran and Ilam, the Iranian forces held out in their positions and maintained the upper hand as artillery fire was exchanged between them and the Iraqi troops.

In the same area, six enemy bunkers were leveled.

At 22.30 hours (1900 GMT) on Friday and later at 07:30 hours (0400 GMT) on Saturday, the Iranian forces spotted an enemy patrol unit and an engineering unit across the city of Sumar, in Bakhtaran Province, and opened fire on them, inflicting casualties and material damage.

In the southern fronts, artillery fire was sporadically traded, raging heavier in the Nahr-e Anbar, Majnun Islands, and west of Kushk, destroying 12 enemy bunkers, one motor pool and killing or wounding a number of Iraqi soldiers.

Meanwhile, one civilian was injured and three houses were damaged in Abadan under Iraqi shelling Saturday.

Iraqi Fighter Planes Repulsed

LD271835 Tehran IRNA in English 1826 GMT 27 Jan 85

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Pr., Jan. 27, IRNA — Iranian Air Force planes today chased off Iraqi fighter planes from Iranian air space over the southern cities of Abadan and Ahvaz.

The Iraqi fighter planes violated Iranian air space first at 10.30 hours (0700 GMT), and later at 10.45 hours (07.15 GMT), but fled after being pursued by the Iranian fighters.

UN Spokesman on Cooperation With POW Investigation

LD251631 Tehran IRNA in English 1627 gmt 25 jan 85

[Text] Washington, Jan 25, IRNA — A spokesman for the U.N. secretary general said in a report at the organisation's headquarters in New York today that a U.N. probe team in Iran proceeded with its investigation of the conditions of Iraqi POW's in Iran, with the full cooperation of Iranian officials.

In his report to Under Secretary General Diego Cordovez, the head of the U.N. General Secretariat Benon Sevan, said the U.N. team also had private talks with the Iraqi POW's.

Majlis Message to UNESCO Lauds U.S. Withdrawal

LD261654 Tehran IRNA in English 1640 GMT 26 Jan 85

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 26, IRNA — In a message to Amadou Mahtar M'bow, the director general of UNESCO, the Majlis education committee expressed gratulation [as received] on the U.S. withdrawal from the organisation.

The message said the U.S. cannot be a partner to any cultural organisation because it respects education, truth and humanism only where and when it be to its own interest.

It said the U.S. has been behind wars, crimes and acts of terrorism in many parts of the world, and that it is responsible for "implanting a cancerous tumour (the Zionist regime) in the heart of the lands of Arab Muslims."

The U.S. has also instigated the Baghdad regime to embroil the Islamic Republic in an unwanted war, it added.

The message charged the U.S. of manipulating the masses by exploiting the imperialistic media, humilitating the culture of the oppressed nations and trying to impose a colonialistic culture upon the world.

The Majlis committee said the pull-out of the "leaders of world oppression" from international forums augurs well of a fresh momentum in a march toward new destinations, and expressed hope that UNESCO would remain watchful for "other possible plots" in the future.

Reportage on Visits With Ayatollah Khomeyni

Receives Ambassador to UAE

LD261246 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Jan 85

[Text] Ha'eri-Fumani, the new ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the UAE, this morning met Imam Khomeyni, the leader of revolution and the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Receives Militant Ulema Leader

LD271600 Tehran IRNA in English 1535 GMT 27 Jan 85

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 27, IRNA — Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the Islamic Revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic, today received Ayatollah Mohammad Reza Mahdavi-Kani. Ayatollah Mahdavi-Kani is the secretary general of the Militant Ulema Society of Tehran.

Briefed by Majlis Speaker

LD281148 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Text] Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, speaker of the Islamic Majlis and the Imam's representative at the Supreme Defense Council, was received by Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran. He briefed the imam this morning on the situation regarding the war, the financial affairs of the government, and the oil issue.